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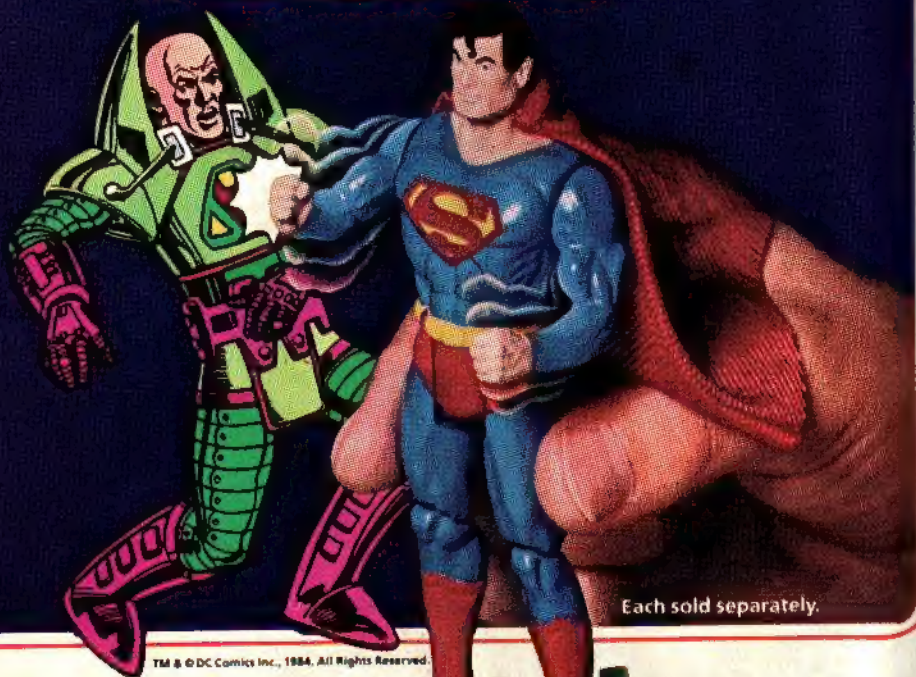
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1942—a world at war! And against the forces of Axis darkness, the mightiest heroes of Earth-Two have banded together, under direct orders of the President, as the

LIGHTNING IN BERLIN!

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

ROY THOMAS—WRITER/EDITOR
ARVELL JONES (QUEST)
& RICHARD HOWELL (ARTISTS)
L. LOIS & ORZ—LETTERERS
GENE D'ANGELO—COLORIST

SOMEWHERE
IN A BOMB-
WRACKED
SECTOR OF
WARTIME
LONDON!

GRAB THESE
TWO KIDS—
ALL-STAR—
BEFORE THEY
GRAB US!

BUT TAKE CARE!
YOUNGSTERS OR
NO, THEY MIGHT BE
EVERY BIT AS
POWERFUL AS
THAT SUPER-HAZ!
THEY RESEMBLE!

HOLD IT,
FOLKS! YOU'VE
GOT MARY AND
ME ALL
WRONG!

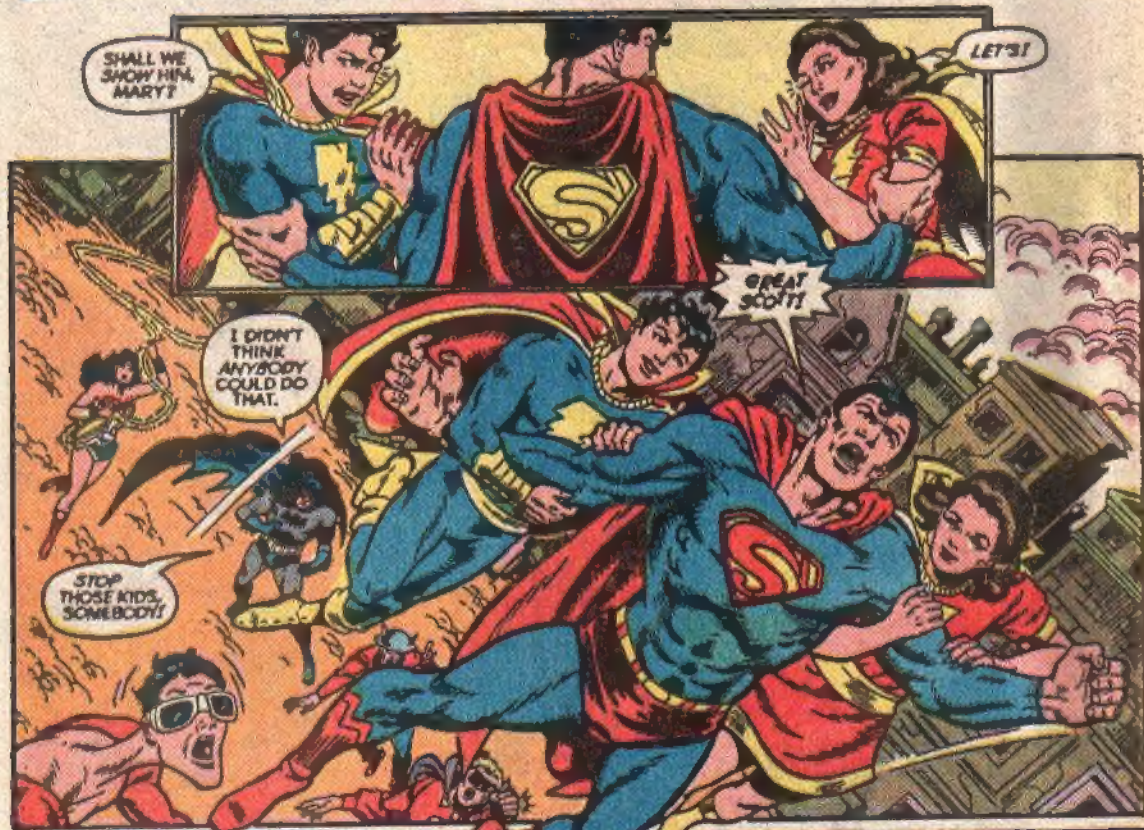
SURE! IT'S JUST
A COINCIDENCE
THAT A FULL-
GROWN SIEG-HEILER
IN AN OUTFIT LIKE
YOURS TRIED TO LEVEL
THIS CITY A
FEW MINUTES AGO!

"Never was so much owed by
so many to so few."
— Winston Churchill, 1940.

WWT, SUPERMAN!
AT LEAST LET'S
GIVE THEM A
HEARING!

*LAST
ISSUE—R.

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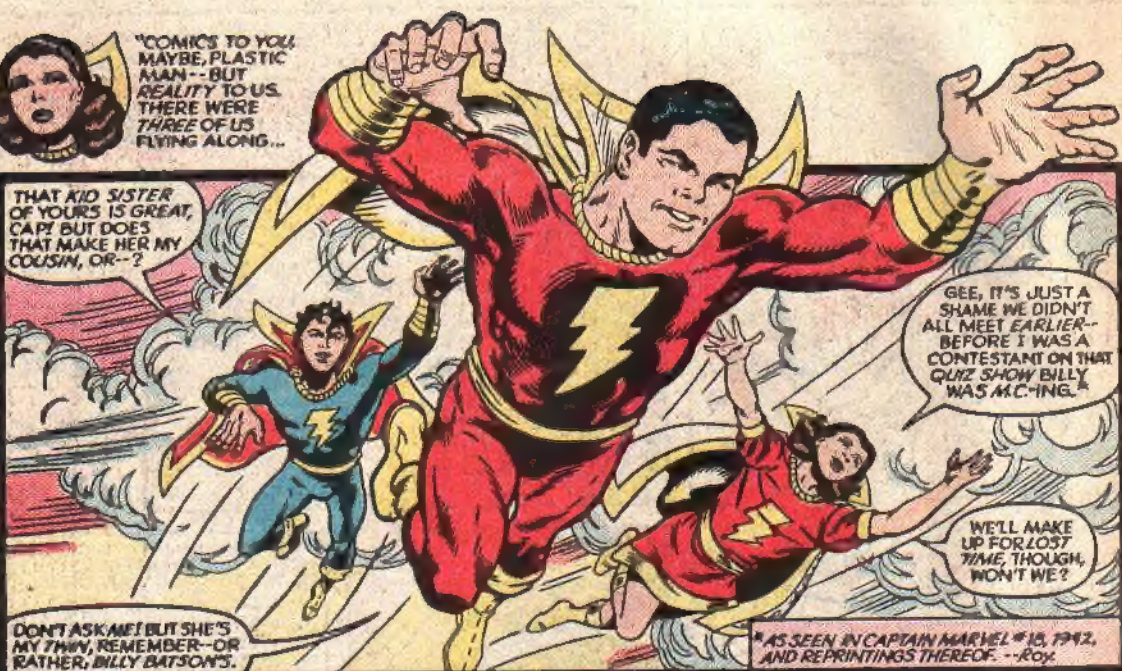




"COMICS TO YOU! MAYBE, PLASTIC MAN-- BUT REALITY TO US. THERE WERE THREE OF US FLYING ALONG..."

THAT KID SISTER OF YOURS IS GREAT, CAP! BUT DOES THAT MAKE HER MY COUSIN, OR--?

DON'T ASK ME! BUT SHE'S MY ZHIV, REMEMBER--OR RATHER, BILLY BATSON'S.



GEE, IT'S JUST A SHAME WE DIDN'T ALL MEET EARLIER-- BEFORE I WAS A CONTESTANT ON THAT QUIZ SHOW BILLY WAS M.C.-ING.

WE'LL MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME, THOUGH, WON'T WE?

*AS SEEN IN CAPTAIN MARVEL #18, 1942, AND REPRINTINGS THEREOF. --Roy.



DON'T BE TOO SURE, MARY. YOU HEARD CAP SAY HE NEEDED TIME TO TRAIN YOU BEFORE-- HOLY MOLEYS!

THAT BOLT FROM THE BLUE-- BLASTING HIM!

ZZZKT!

ARRGH--!!

S-SOMETHING HAPPENING TO HIM!



"WE DECIDED THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON TO ASK-- DOWN AN OLD, ABANDONED SUNDAY TUNNEL--"

OLD SHAZAM WILL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO CAP-- IF ANYBODY DOES!

HE'S MASHING, THAT'S WHAT!

BUT-- WHERE TO??

I KNOW HIS SPIRIT APPEARS WHEN YOU LIGHT THAT BRAZIER, BUT CAN HE REALLY--?

I CAN TELL YOU, MARY MARVEL, THAT YOUR BROTHER WAS PULLED FROM OUR EARTH--

--INTO ANOTHER EARTH, WHICH EXISTS ALONGSIDE IT.

I CAN SAY NO MORE!



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ONCE WE KNEW THAT, THE REST WASN'T TOO HARD-- IF YOU'VE GOT SHAZAM POWERS, ANYWAY.

WE GOT HERE, BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY CAPTAIN MARVEL-- CAP--TURNED NAZI.

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD-- HE'S AS AMERICAN AS ANY OF YOU!

I THINK WE'RE GETTING AN INKING WHY-- AM I RIGHT, ALL-STAR?

YOU SAID THAT LIGHTNING WHICH CHANGES YOU ALL IS MAGIC, AND THAT MUST MEAN-- THE SPEAR OF DESTINY!

THE WHAT?

OF COURSE, FLASH! UNLIKE THESE YOUNGSTERS, CAPTAIN MARVEL MUST HAVE POPPED UP IN HITLER-LAND WHEN THAT BOLT STRUCK-- WHATEVER IT WAS--

--SO THAT HE FELL UNDER ENEMY CONTROL, JUST AS SOME OF US ONCE DID!

ONLY ONE THING TO DO-- HOP ABOARD MY INVISIBLE PLANE HERE AND--

INVISIBLE PLANE WHERE?

HOLD IT! WHAT'S THIS "SPEAR OF DESTINY" STUFF?

ISSUE #4. --ROY.

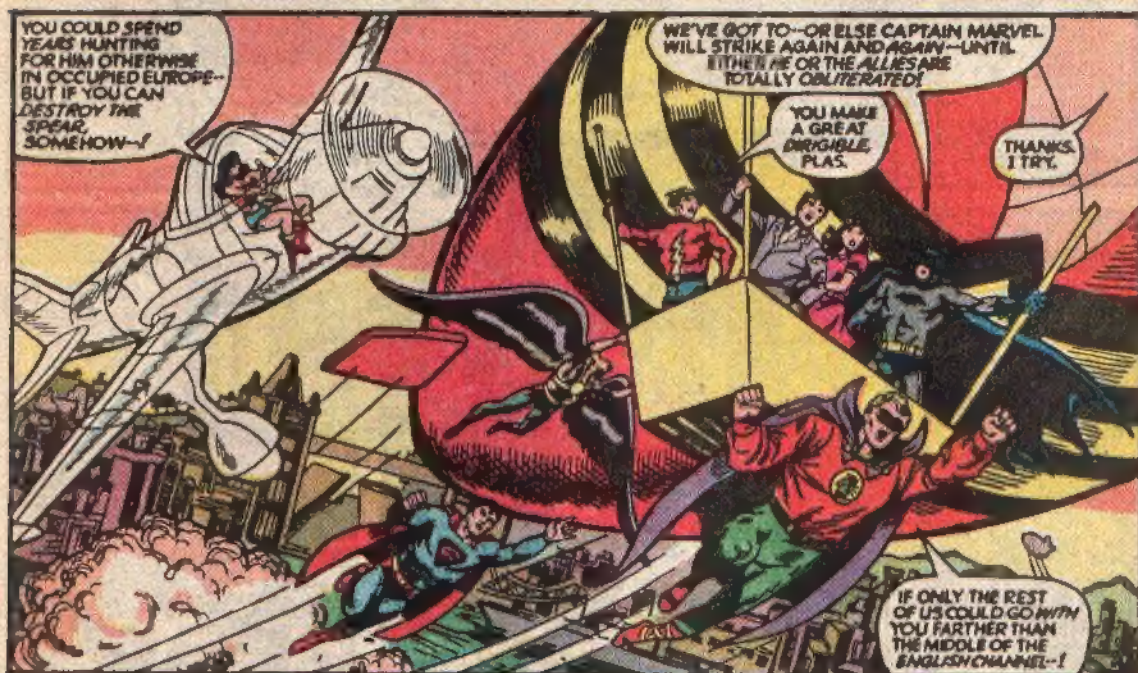
THE SPEAR'S AN ANCIENT WEAPON OF GREAT MYSTIC POWERS, SON-- NOW WIELDED BY HITLER, HIMSELF.

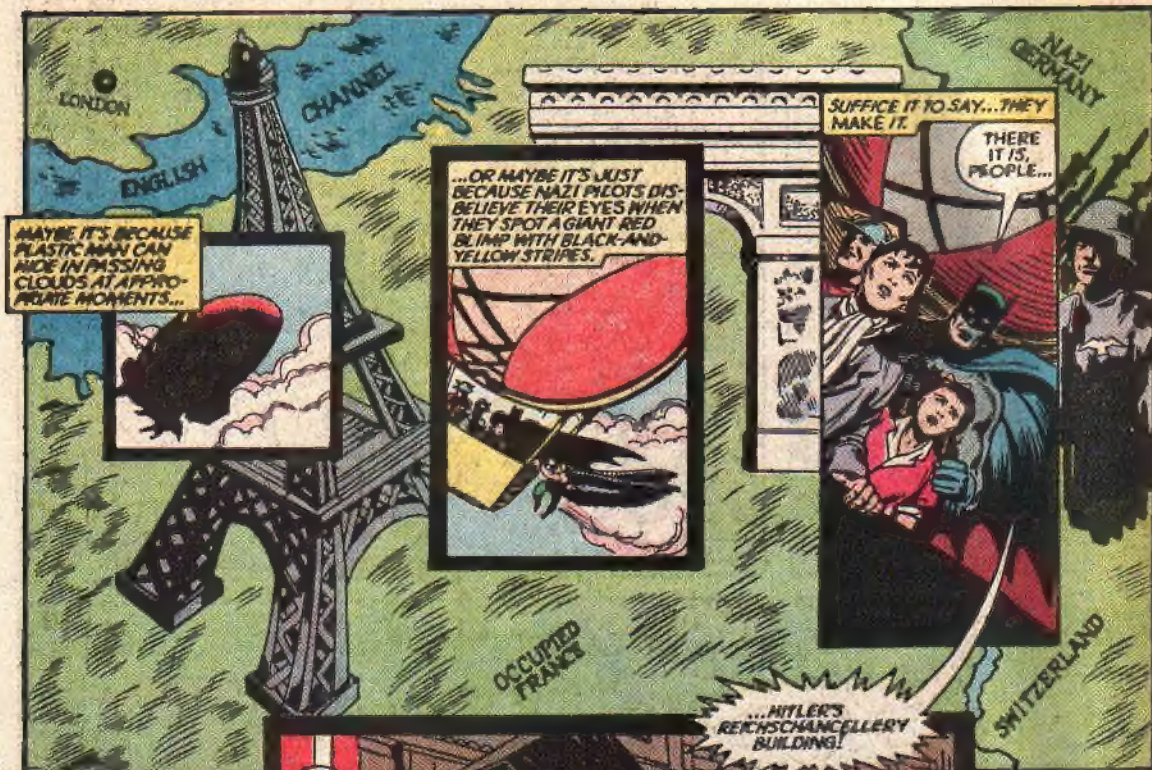
WONDER WOMAN, GREEN LANTERN, AND-- SOMEHOW-- SUPERMAN ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO IT, BUT THE REST OF US AREN'T. SO YOU KIDS CAN HELP US FIND--

--REIN UP, SPEEDSTER! SINCE THEY'RE MAGICAL, TOO...

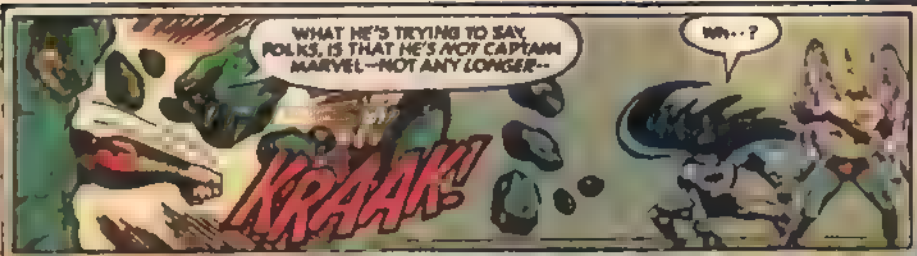
LONG AS HE HOLDS IT-- AND THE JAPANESE ITS GRAIL COUNTERPART-- IT CAUSES MAGIC-BASED HEROES TO FALL UNDER THEIR SHINY IF THEY VENTURE INTO AXIS-HELD TERRITORY.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA SAY, SUPERMAN...





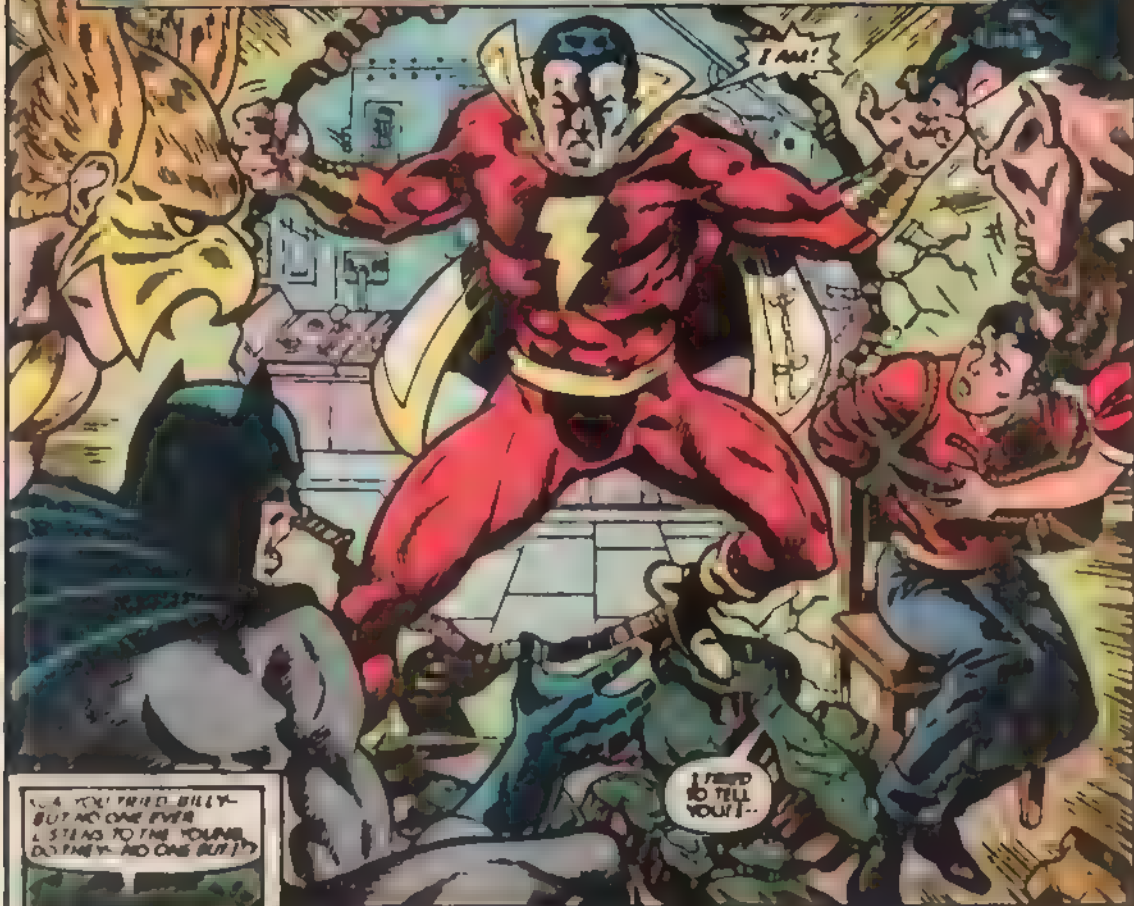




WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY, FOLKS, IS THAT HE'S NOT CAPTAIN MARVEL—NOT ANY LONGER--

WHY...?

KRAAK!



I AM!

I TRIED TO TELL YOU!

W-A-Y YOU TRIED, BILLY— BUT NO ONE EVER LISTENS TO THE YOUNG DO THEY— NO ONE BUT I!



HYLER!

(YOU ARE SURPRISED? WHERE SHOULD I BE, WHEN I'M NOT AT THE RUSSIAN FRONT OR IN THE BLUE HAVES WHERE SUPER-HEROES ARE DESIGNED?)

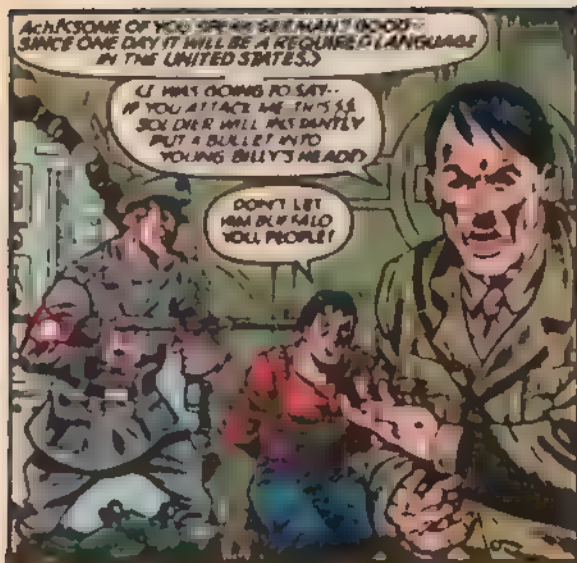


LIKE UP THEM AT BAY, HALPTMAANN WUNDER— AND IF ANY OF THEM MAKES A MOVE AGAINST ME, SMASH HIM!

JA, MEIN FÜRER!

(AND IF HE FEELS LIKE TRYING ANYTIME, ADOLF?)

"CAPTAIN MARVEL" #2



ACH SOME OF YOU SPEAK GERMAN! GOOD! SINCE ONE DAY IT WILL BE A REQUIRED LANGUAGE IN THE UNITED STATES!

IF YOU ATTACK ME, THIS SOLDIER WILL PUT A BULLET INTO YOUR BILLY'S HEAD!

DON'T LET HIM BULLY YOU, PEOPLE!



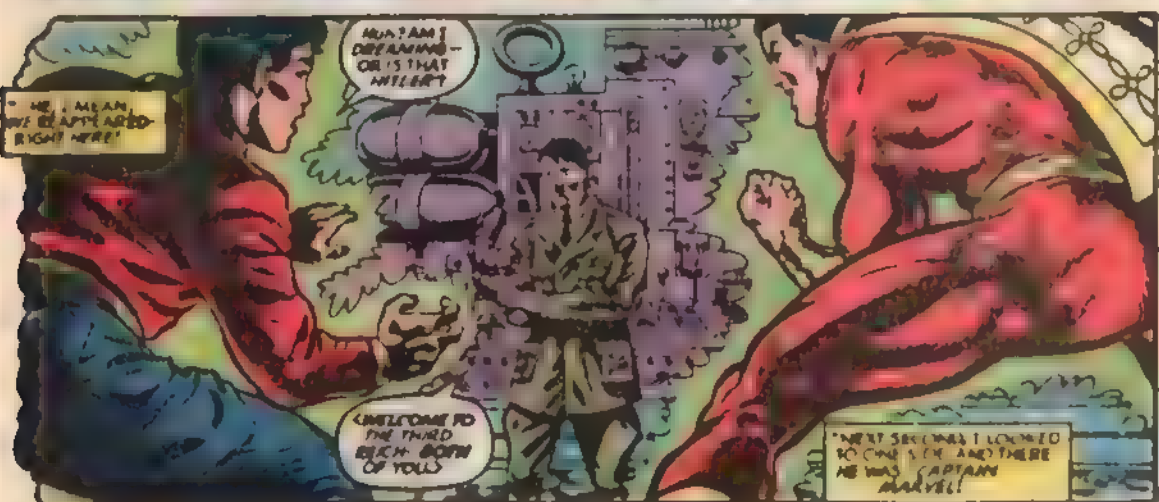
HITLER'S A DOP BLUFFING! I MIGHT OUL'FACE MARVEL OR A BULLET! BUT BOTH OF THEM I JUST CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE!

IT'S YOUR BOUND, RATZ! BELLY MOWD HE SPLIT YOU AND CAPTAIN MARVEL IN TWO!



I'LL TELL YOU IN GOOD OL AMERICAN ENGLISH—HE'LL LET ME

THAT PUNNY LIGHTNING HIT CAP AND POEN HE DISAPPEARED.



"HE, I MEAN, HE'S REAPPEARED—RIGHT HERE!"

HUN? AM I DEAMING—OR IS THAT HITLER?

WELCOME TO THE THIRD REICH—BORN OF YOU!

"NEXT SECOND I LOOKED TO ONE SIDE AND THERE HE WAS CAPTAIN MARVEL!"



"HE GRABBED ME, AND ALL THE TIME I KEPT SAYING—"

SHAZAM! SHAZAM! GO—GARN IT?

SHOUT YOUR MAGIC WORD UNTIL YOU ARE HOARSE, BOY?

IT WILL MAKE YOU NOTHING—?



WHILE THE SPEAR OF DESTINY IS MINE!

YOU ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED, HERE! FOR WHEN YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR FUNKER WELL—

IF I NEVER HAD ANY DOUBT MY MACHINE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THREE!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

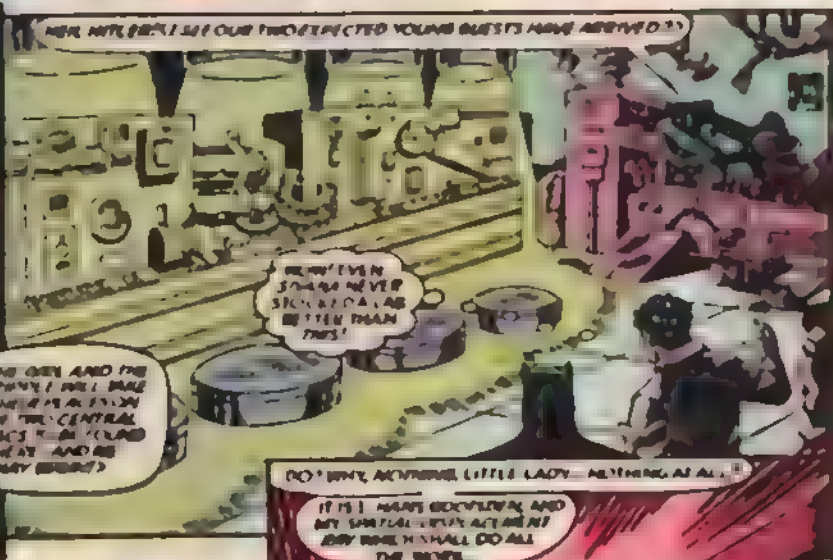
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THIS TIME, HOWEVER, I KNOW PRECISELY WHAT TO EXPECT, AND SO--

MARY MARVEL: SHE'S TOTALLY SWIFT OFF FROM ME AND I DIDN'T EVEN SAY "SHAME"

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
BEAT EVERY
ALWAYS

THE
ANTIQUES

OH, NO -
JANOR!
NEW FOLL
TOOK?

GET OFF MY BACK,
DADDY—BEFORE
I GET TOO OLD,
EVEN IF YOU DO
LOOK LIKE AUNT

大智度論

«CAPILLARY» NOW
HAVING THREE IN NOSES
TO (ADMIT) BUT THE
MOST IMPORTANT
DISCUSSION OF THE
WALL TO DATE.)

(OUTSIDE
BRIAN'S OFFICE)
IS THE MOST
CHARISMATIC MOST
CONSTRUCTIVE
BOMB FUSE
DE MONDOL)

(BUT MY SCIENTISTS' REPORTS ARE TWO
YEARS AT LEAST TWO YEARS AWAY
FROM DEVELOPING A PROPER
DELIVERY SYSTEM.)

ALL STATES: WE CAN'T LET
THAT MADMAN

FOR THE
MOMENT
WE GOT
ALL THE
ACES
PLAS

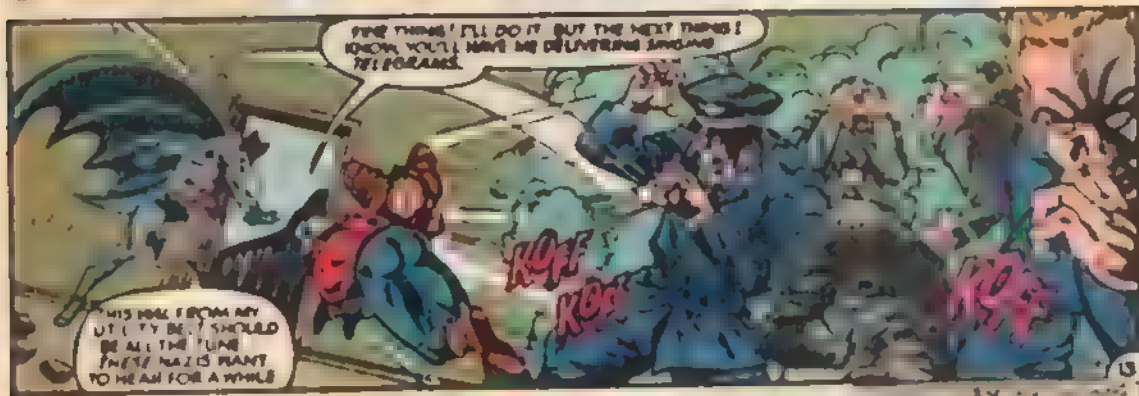
(YOU BLUNDER)
SHALL BE THAT
DE. MAY
SYSTEM)

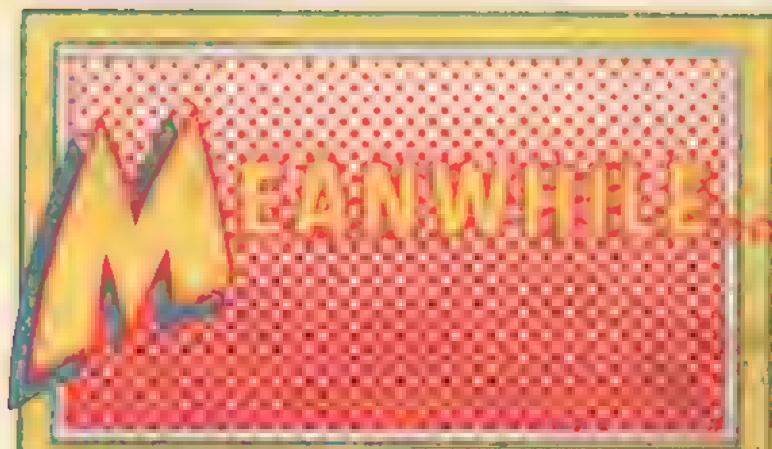
**BUT THE FIRST
SECOND HE ANSWERS:**

MOMENTS LATER THE AIR-
SCAPE WAS TOP OF THE
V-1 AND V-2 ROCKETS WHICH
BY 1949 SAW 1 BOMB DROP
UPON ONE OF OUR LAM
TUNNELS ON ITS MARK...

CARRIED ALOFT
EAST BY THE
CO. W. & S. CO.
SAY NINE OR TEN
OF A THOUSAND TO THE
ALL-RED-ALICE TOWN
IS THE POWER OF IT

HEIL HITLER





The oft-quoted homily goes something like so: "Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door."

Yeah, well...

I'm not big for mousetraps and I certainly don't want people beating a path to my door, and destroying the lawn that I've invested a tiny sum to get to grow.

But I am big for comics...have been for thirty/forty years and I want to build a better comic. I have a vision, remember. A vision of comics being all that they can be. I only don't know if that vision will ever come to pass, but I do know that if it does, it will not be because we chose to walk in the footsteps of others. We must (and will) go our own way, occasionally making mistakes, occasionally being rewarded by great triumphs, but each step leading, hopefully, ultimately, to the realization of that vision.

Fine so far, neat words. Do those words have substance? Does DC really have a long-term plan that can turn neat words into reality? Fair questions. They deserve answers. My answers to those questions are yes and yes. And I will spend some time in this column amplifying those answers both today and in future columns.

Okay—

First of all, don't be frightened by the phrase "long-term." You won't have to wait till you're old and gray. Fact is, we've already started and there are "short-term" results. We have made or planned changes in four areas that will have a short- and long-term positive effect on our comics.

1) **Staff:** If you read this column regularly, you're already aware of the fact that there are some new faces around here. We let them introduce themselves to you, and I'm sure you noticed that though they all had publishing backgrounds, none of them were specifically comic publishing backgrounds. As a matter of fact, they were chosen for their editorial skills and because they were not dyed-in-the-wool comic people dedicated to maintaining a status quo, did not have a notion of there being only one "right way" of producing comics. In short, they're open-minded,

skillful, inquisitive, and intelligent and those attitudes could naturally lead to their being experimental and innovative. Not one of them would say "we can't do that because it's never been done successfully before." Of course, we'll use the same criteria for choosing future staff members.

2) **Printing techniques:** It's easy to say "we take the time to do it right." It's easy for us to say that because it's true. We also spend a considerable amount of money to "do it right." We use the

most appropriate production and printing techniques and we monitor the results constantly. We order expensive 3M or Chromalyn proofs from our separators (on all our deluxe format titles) to correct and insure that the finished product will be what we had envisioned. We also send qualified people to the printers to

check and correct the first copies off the press before the full print run begins. Frank Miller and Lynn Varley (the color artist on **RONIN**) have been to press when each issue of **RONIN** was to be printed. As a matter of fact, I'm writing this column in my bedroom in a lodge that World Color (our major printer) maintains for visiting clients in Sparta, Illinois. Bob Rozakis (who's sleeping in the next bedroom) and I are here to check the printing of **THE NEW TEEN TITANS #1**—the first regularly published offset, deluxe format title being printed for us by World Color who of course prints all of our enterprise books. All this is currently **SOP** and we hope that the end result of this tender loving care will be better books at the lowest possible cost to you (to be continued).

Thank you and Good Afternoons

Dick

SPOTLIGHT ON...GREEN LANTERN

"I'm sorry, Dick, I just can't do it," I all but shouted, at an unnatural note of panic in my voice.

"Don't be ridiculous, Len," replied Dick Giordano, Executive Editor all around nice guy and currently the major source of my torment. Of course you can do it. You're a professional, aren't you? You've been writing in this business for sixteen years. How hard could it possibly be for you to write me a simple little promo piece about your work on the new **Green Lantern**?"

"But I don't know where to start," I pleaded. "I don't know what to say."

Well, then talk about how much fun you and Dave Gibbons are having on the book. Dick suggested, a note of pity growing in his voice.

"But that's obvious," I whined. "Anybody looking at Dave's pencil and-ink work on the book can tell at a glance how much effort he's putting into his work. And my scripts are trying very hard to match that level of quality."

"Yeah...that's true enough," Dick conceded. "Well, then, why don't you just tell all about your plans to revamp the book?"

"You mean, like how Hal Jordan is going to actually resign from the Green Lantern Corps, to lead a normal life?" I asked.

"Yeah...like that," Dick smiled, the smile of a man who has just explained Quantum Physics to a chimpanzee.

Gee then I can tell everybody that Hal's replacement as Green Lantern will be—

"Whoa, fella," said Dick, almost rising to his feet. "You don't really want to give away a shocker like that before they read the issue, do you?"

"No, I guess not," I replied, a little crestfallen. "Then why don't I tell them about the image, and how he'll be the most offbeat new superhero since Brother Power, The Geek?"

"Will you please be serious," Dick scowled.

Sheesh, everybody's a critic. I sighed. "I guess since this is a promo for **Green Lantern**, I can't tell the readers all about my plans for the image, right? How he may develop into the regular backup strip in **GL**? How he'll show up in **DC Presents**? How if reader reaction is strong enough he might even graduate into—days I say it?—his very own book?"

"Nope," said Dick. "Not a word."

"Spoilsport. Well, if I can't tell them about that, can I tell them about all the new thrills, surprises, and unexpected twists and turns coming their way in the new **Green Lantern**?"

"I think you already have," sighed Dick, understandably.

"Well, when Dave and I took over this book, we promised everyone the new **Green Lantern** was coming—and you know how we hate to go back on our word."

"You know," said Dick, shaking his head sadly, "I'm beginning to think this column wasn't such a great idea after all."

I left him there, sobbing softly into the towering stack of books and papers growing like Topsy on his desk.

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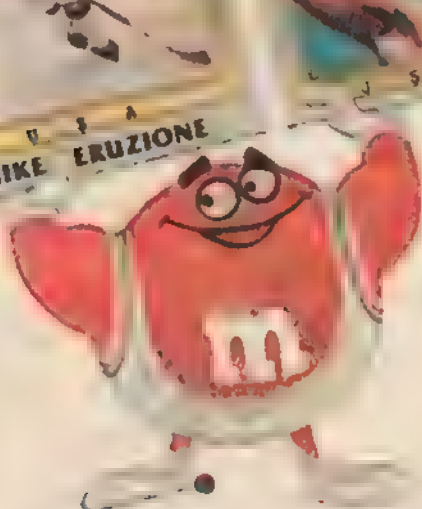
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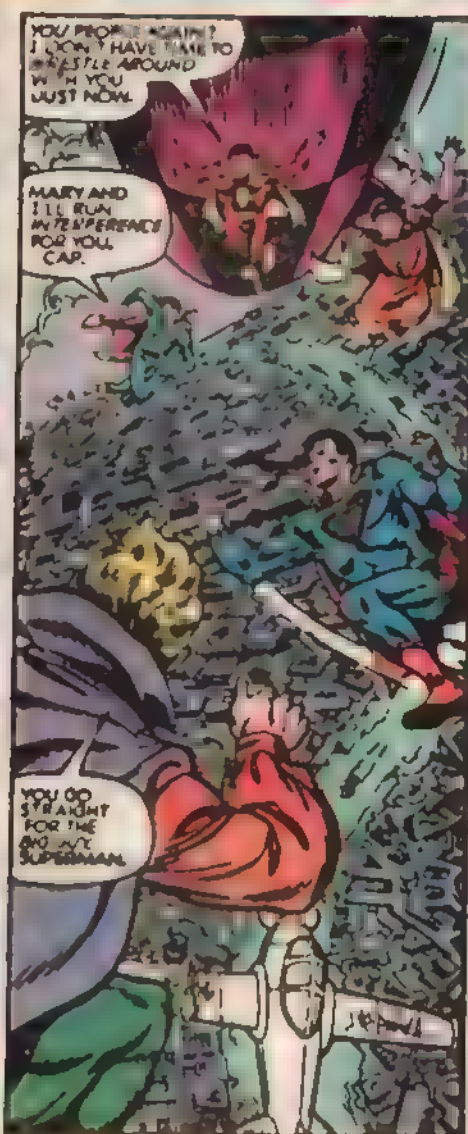
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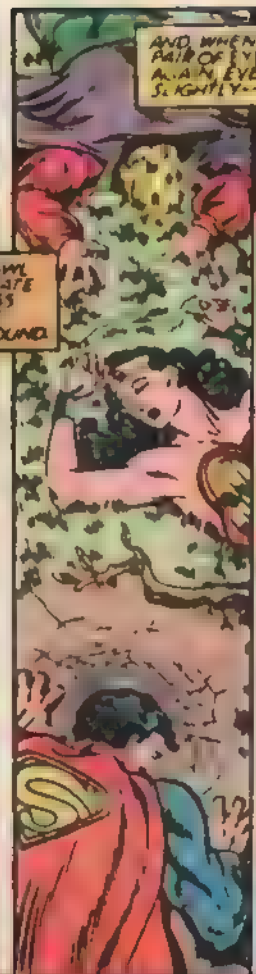
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TO SPRAWL
IN INSENSATE
STILLNESS
UPON THE
COLD GROUND



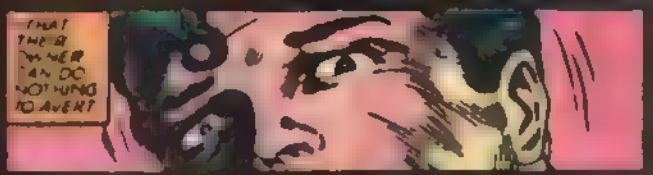
AND WHEN THE FIRST
PAIR OF EYES OPENS
AGAIN, EVER SO
SLIGHTLY -



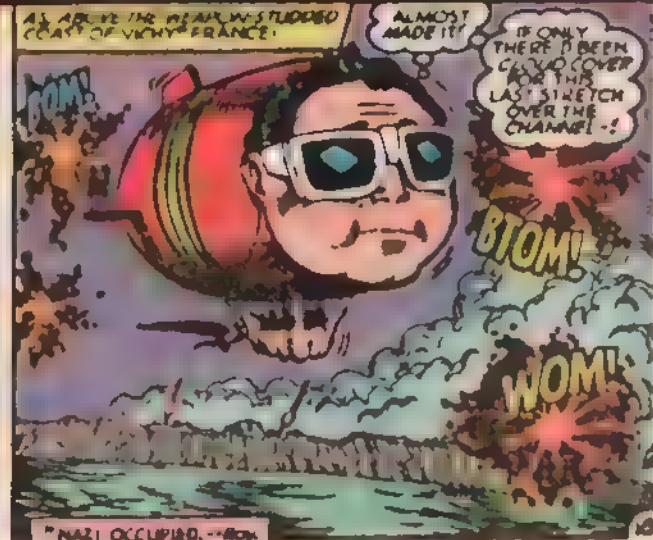
...IT IS UPON
A SCENE OF
IMMINENT
VEYERFUL
DOOM -

GET
THEM!

KILL
THEM
ALL!



THAT
THEY
CAN
DO
NOTHING
TO AVOID



AS ABOVE THE HEAVEN STUDDED
COAST OF VICHY FRANCE.

ALMOST
MADE IT!

IF ONLY
THERE'D BEEN
CAVVO COVER
FOR THIS
LAST STRETCH
OVER THE
CHANNEL -!

BOM!

BTOM!

WOM!

"NAZI OCCUPIED." -BOY-

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THESE ARE THE BEST

EVEN AS THEY STRIKE THE FRONT
THEY WILL TRY TO GET THE
UP, IF POSSIBLE, NEAR
THE YOUNGSTERS --

--AND THE BADLY SHAKEN PLASTIC MAN DOES EVEN BETTER THAN THAT:

Y-YOU'VE BECOME
A LIFE PARTY? BUT
HOW CAN I
YOU WITH US
AS A LIFE

YOU GUYS
JUST GET
THESE
AND JOIN
BOARD!

THEY ARE
BUILT

LET ME WORRY ABOUT STAYING
NIGHT FOR A FEW MILES OR AT?

THE BLAST DIDN'T HIT
AS NEAR WHERE I
WAS FLYING SO
I CAN

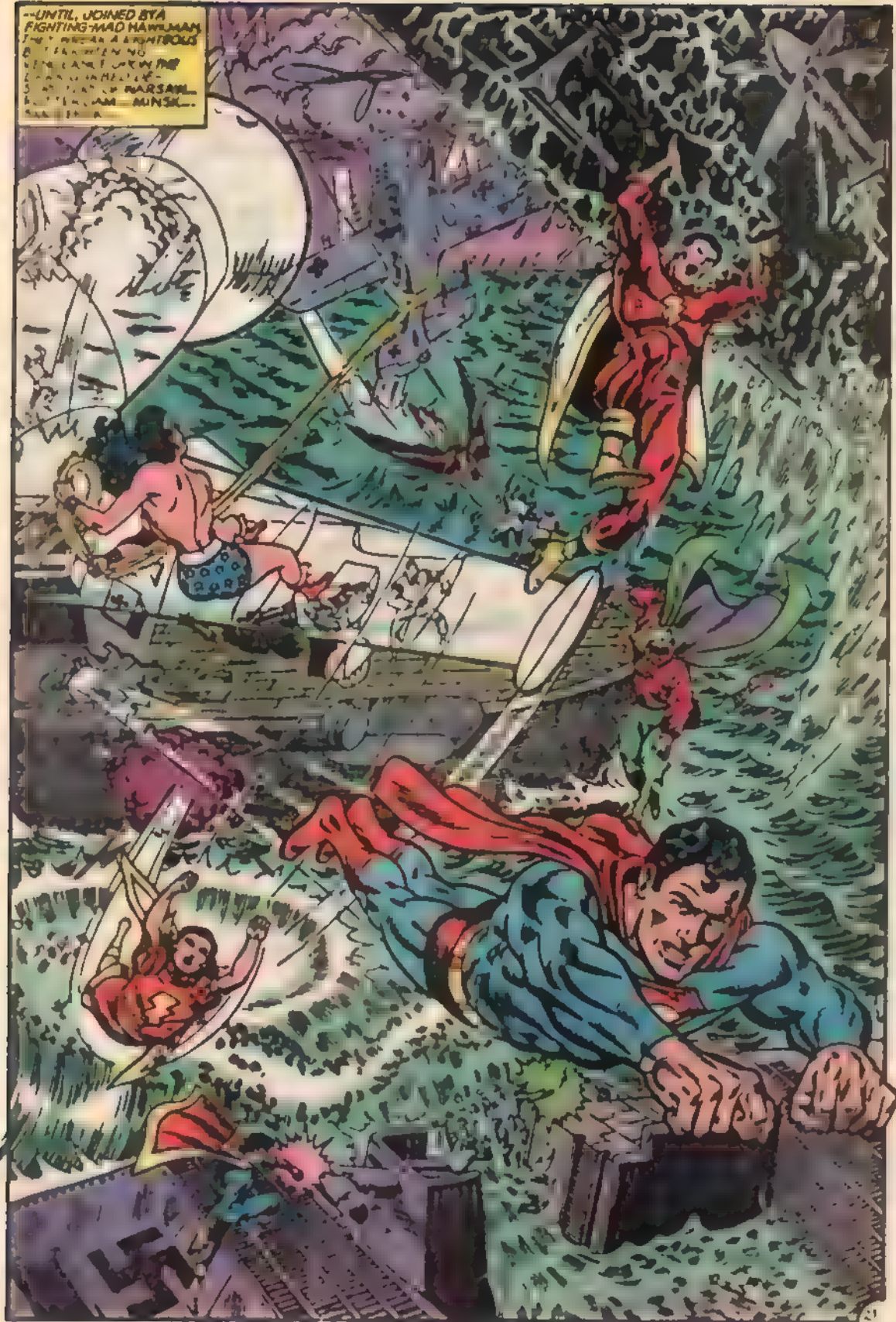
HEY, NICE
LEADWORK THERE
SPEEDSTER!

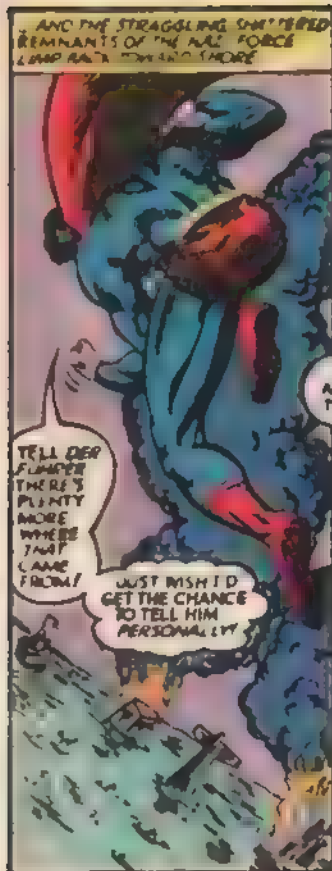
WE NEED IT,
HANA LOVES
BEHIND THE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-19-2006 BY SP-6 BJS/BJS

YOU MEAN THE FBI NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT

--UNTIL, JOINED BY
FIGHTING MAD HAWKMAN
THEY WERE A LONGBOW
BUT IN NO
TIME CAME OVER THE
LAW IN THE
3 AND THE MARSAL
BUT IN THE MINSK
BUT IN THE





AND THE STRAGGLING SHEPHERD
REMNANTS OF THE NAZI FORCE
LEAP RATA TOWARD SHORE

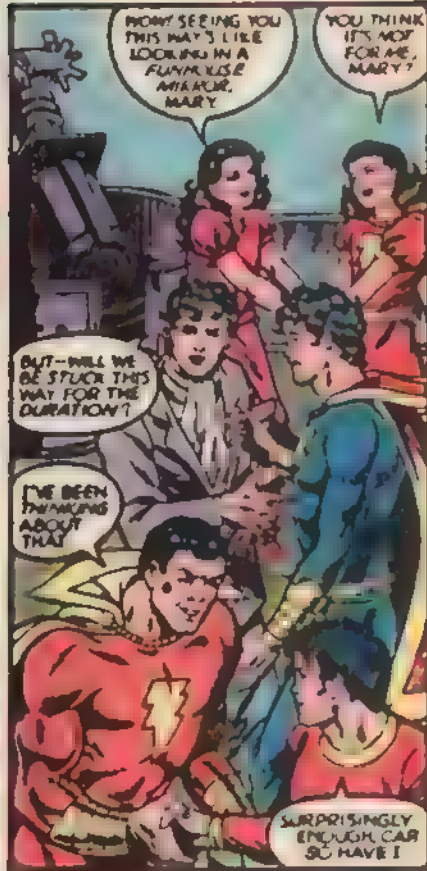


SO THREE OF US KIDS
GOT OUT OF RANGE
OF THE SPEAR'S
INFLUENCE JUST IN
TIME, HUH, CAP?

IN THE
AREA, AS
THEY SAY

OH--SORRY
ABOUT ALL
THE TROUBLE
WE CAUSED
YOU GUYS.

NOT
YOUR FAULT,
CAPTAIN.



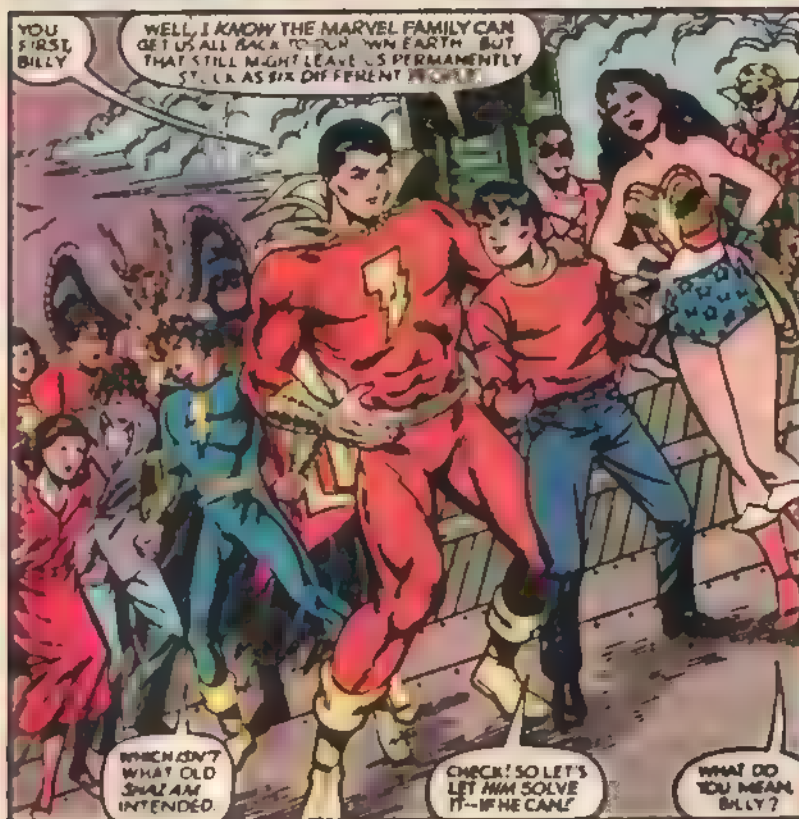
WOAH! SEEING YOU
THIS WAY'S LIKE
LOOKING IN A
FUNHOUSE
MIRROR,
MARY.

YOU THINK
IT'S NOT
FOR ME,
MARY?

BUT--WILL WE
BE STUCK THIS
WAY FOR THE
DURATION?

I'VE BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT
THAT

SURPRISINGLY
ENOUGH, CAP
SO HAVE I



YOU
FIRST,
BILLY

WELL, I KNOW THE MARVEL FAMILY CAN
GET US ALL BACK TO OUR OWN EARTH BUT
THAT STILL MIGHT LEAVE US PERMANENTLY
STUCK AS SIX DIFFERENT PEOPLE

WHICH ISN'T
WHAT OLD
SHAZAM
INTENDED

CHECK! SO LET'S
LET HIM SOLVE
IT--IF HE CAN!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
BILLY?



NOW THAT WE'RE TOGETHER
FREE FROM THE INFLUENCE OF
THE SPEAR OF DESTINY AND
EVEN HITLER'S GUARDS--

LET'S ALL SEE
TRY SAYING OUR
MAGIC WORDS AT
THE SAME TIME--
AND SEE WHAT
HAPPENS!

I MEAN--
WHAT WE'RE
GOT TO
LOSE, RIGHT?

CROSS SWORDS WITH CHAMPIONS!

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NIKOLA

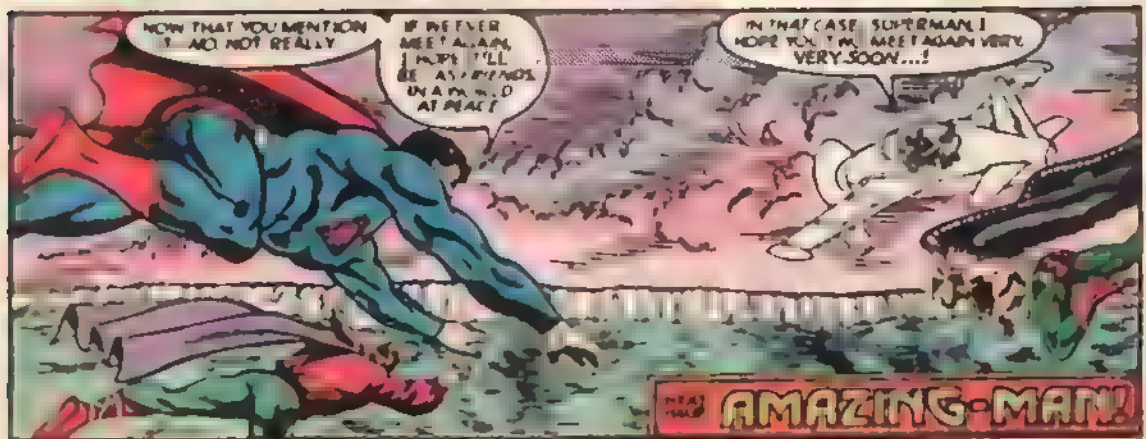
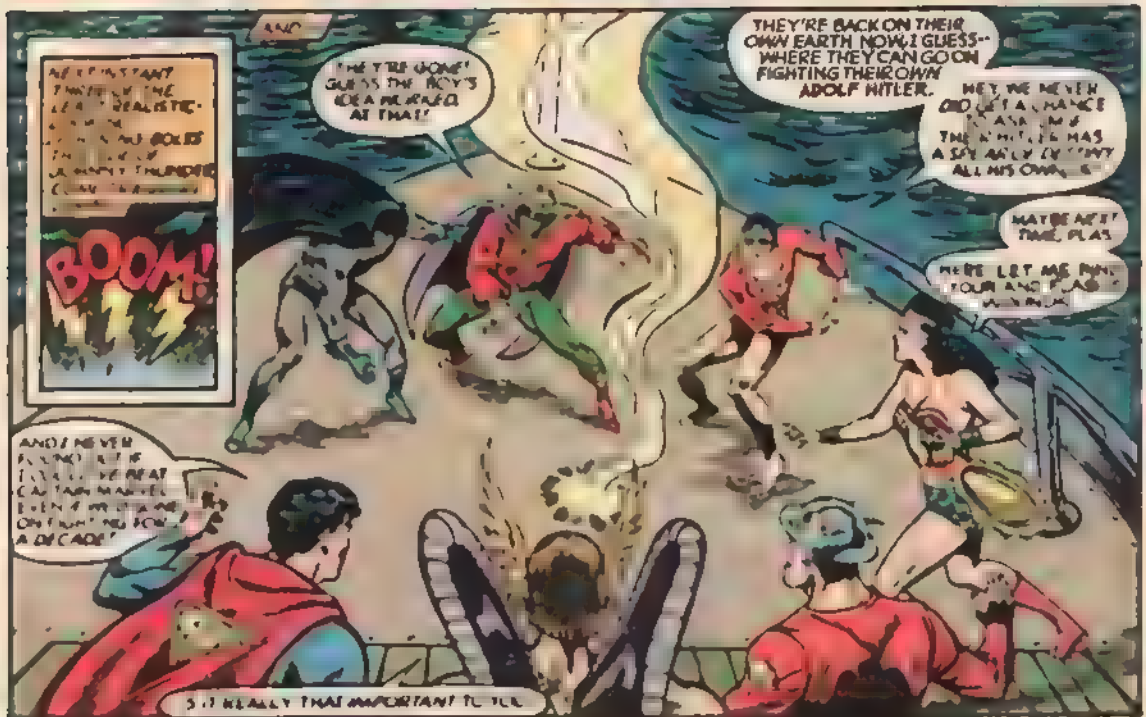
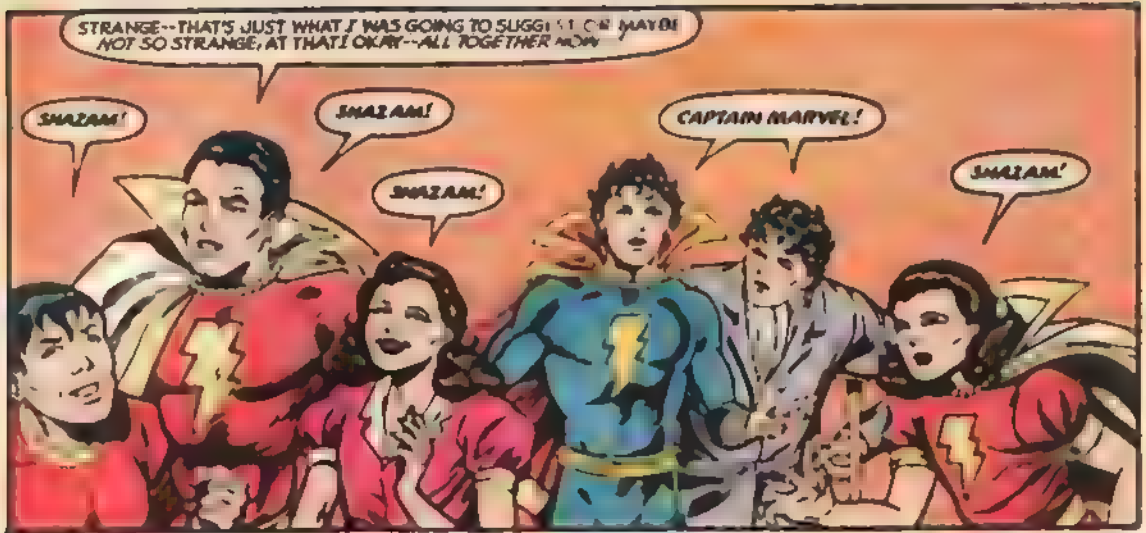
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Dear Roy and Rick,

As far as Rick Hobert's debut in ALL-STAR SQUADRON #31-32 goes, what can I say but that this man is truly talented. And that, all things considered, he was probably the best artist DC could have replaced Jerry Ordway with. Bill Collins' sketchy style of inking took a little getting used to for me, but all in all (I'll watch some films).

Secondly, there's the little matter, left over from #31, of the First Full-Roster Meeting of the All-Star Squadron. It's really a classic—all the little chatter of the first full Mystery-Man Convention ever! And you even got all the major Quality characters in, too. It would seem that you, Roy, are going to downplay the JSA for a while, and that's OK as long as the members still are in the Squadron, as they obviously will be. At least you guys have finally established that there is an Earth-Two Aquaman. Continuity-wise, Roy, things have greatly improved at DC since you became Earth-Two Editor—for which, by the way, a belated congratulations. How does it feel to control the lives and destinies of an entire planet? Just because you wanted it to be so, the Sandman had a mild stroke just before INFINITY, INC. #1.

Liked the fact that you included Quality's Spirit clone, Midnight. Reading the first part of his Earth-X adventure with Doll Man was fun. I cringed up when those Nazi soldiers followed him through the space warp to Earth-Two, and next panel you see several of them missing the skyscrapers. A nice visual touch.

Lastly, I have just one question: Just who is Ish Kabibola?

Even M. Lanctot
45 Powers Av.
San Francisco, CA 94110

Ish Kabibola was the comedy relief in the famous band of Key Klear, back in those long-ago days. The mere mention of his name—for obvious reasons—was often enough to get a laugh.

As for my new job as Earth-Two Editor, I'll admit it's been a blast so far. But there'll be some real surprises coming up later. And we're glad that most fans realized that, in using the Quality hero Midnight, we were paying homage to (not ripping off) Will Eisner's classic character, The Spirit. Truth to tell, it was Will himself who awarded Midnight to SMASH COMICS, while his Spirit was running in Quality's companion mag, POLICE COMICS. Why? You'd have to ask the man himself, Even. And, the frantic pace

being what it was in those days, we suspect he's long since forgotten.

—R.T.

Dear Mr. Thomas,

This past week I took out all my old JUSTICE LEAGUES to re-re-re-read them. While going through JLA #8, I happened to glance at the letters page. The first letter I read was written by a very enthusiastic fan. This fan obviously knew his history of comics, because he compared the first super-hero team of the 60's with the original super-hero group, the JSA. Both the JSA and the JLA were the first and greatest teams of their respective decades, he said (in so many words).

Well, Roy, 21½ years later, that same enthusiastic fan has become, dare I say, "the Gardner F. Fox of the present." This fan has resurrected a feeling and greatness in comics which has been missing for over 35 years. He has revived comics' Golden Age, giving it the same greatness it achieved forty years ago. And I, for one, couldn't be happier. It is, without contest, the best comic book being published today: ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

Roy Thomas used to write letters to comics. Now, he writes comics.

For all of the above: Thank you, Roy. I cheer the cast you work with: The Justice Society, Johnny Quick, Robotman, the Guardian, Plastic Man, and the rest. Who can deny that these are the greatest super-heroes ever? People like the Green Lantern, Hawkman, Sandman, Dr. Fate, and friends make today's heroes seem absolutely pathetic.

The Squadron has a great writer and artists. It has continuity, and uses a vast knowledge of the Golden Age. It has everything...except Tlok-Tlok Tyler, the Mourner.

Finally, I must say I enjoy your long editorial comments at the end of each letter you answer. Also, could you advise me concerning any good reading material about the Golden Age such as *All in Color for a Dime* or *Starline's History of Comics*?

To put this whole letter into perspective: Do you remember the thrill of being that certain comics fan 21½ years ago? Remember how exciting it was to collect every issue of ALL-STAR COMICS even earlier? Well, now I'm the one writing the enthusiastic letters and collecting every issue of ALL-STAR SQUADRON. Times may change, but these heroes are

still where they were forty years ago—number one!

Michael Souza
Route 2
Kearny, NJ 07036

And so they'll ever be for me, Michael, no matter how many super-groups pop up (seems like one a month, now, including INFINITY, INC.). Meanwhile, since it seems to be taking forever for us to get around to publishing that 1940's reprint title we promised many moons ago, I've decided (and Rick Hobert happily concurs) to initiate something (and a special, starting in #38).

Beginning next month, the ALL-STAR SQUADRON itself will be 20 (at most 21 or 22) pages long, rather than the 23 pages you're used to now. The extra pages will be filled with very special artwork indeed—both old and new. For we'll be introducing a "Golden Age Gallery" which will include a potpourri of covers, pin-ups, and fact pages from the 1940's (and occasionally from the late 30's)...new drawings by Golden-Age Greats (from Jack "Boy Commando" Kirby to Matt "Green Lantern" Modell to Wayne "Superman" Boring)...equally new illustrations by the cream of today's artist crop, including guys like Marshall Rogers, Jerry Ordway, Joe Staton, and others...and other Golden Age goodness that we run across from time to time. Heck, we've even got a Superman we laid out by his co-creator Joe Shuster back in 1939-40 and never published till now—plus pages from a never-before-published 1946 Justice Society story called "The Will of William Wilson."

Now that we've whetted your nostalgic (or historical) appetite, we'd also like, starting right now, to solicit your advice on the kind of thing you'd like to see in our "Golden Age Gallery." Could be you'll set us off in a new/old direction we haven't even thought of.

—R.T.

Dear Roy,

It seems you guys can do no wrong. ALL-STAR SQUADRON keeps getting better with each issue. Take #32's "Crisis on Earth X: The Prequel." We're slowly seeing the creation of the Freedom Fighters, which possibly means that we won't be seeing Uncle Sam, Black Condor, the Ray, Phantom Lady, Doll Man, and the Human Bomb

for a while after this epic is finished, alas.

Speaking of epics, that's just what Rick Hoberg and Bill Collins are...an epic team.

Delmo Walters, Jr.
1209 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10452

We think so, too, Delmo. And they'll be back in tandem next issue, following this special two-issue Marvel Family appearance penciled by Rich Buckler and Arvell Jones. With #38 we'll be switching directions slightly in ALL-STAR SQUADRON, in order to emphasize characterizations more and mob scenes less, as we've long intended to do. But don't worry, 'cause as you now know, not all the Freedom Fighters are lost to earth by the end of February 1942. For one thing, there were just too many readers enamored with Phantom Lady (not to mention her costume) for us to write her out of the series entirely. You'll see a startling development in the life of Commander Steel—the return of Amazing-Man—and more. So be here, okay?

—R.T.

ADDENDA & ERRATA: Felt compelled to mention a couple of hopefully minor goofs in issue #32. First off, a caption on p. 6, panel 16, narrated by Midnight, stated he knew of Baron Blitzkrieg from accounts of his attack on Churchill in late December (ish #7); however, since Midnight and Doll Man were both on Earth-X by that time, that was clearly impossible, as I realized when I proofread the story later. Alas, a note to remove that caption was somehow missed while the book was in production, so it accidentally got printed. Sorry about that.

Also, our thanks to old friend Don Thompson (now, with wife Maggie, editor of *The Comics Buyer's Guide*, comics fandom's major ad-news-paper), for pointing out an anachronism that slipped willy-nilly into #32. As Don correctly states, Midnight (and I) shouldn't have referred there to "sci-fi" mags—and not just because the term "sci-fi" sends true science-fiction fans up the wall like chalk across a blackboard, either. (As an SF fan myself, I already knew that, though that doesn't mean it would have been common knowledge back in 1942.) No, it seems that, as Don says, that hated term "was the brainchild of Forrest J. Ackerman [founding editor of the late lamented magazine *Famous Monsters*], circa 1957." Actually, I guess I should've gone by my first instincts and used a term I know was of more ancient vintage: the truly awful word "scientifiction," coined by Hugo Gernsback, editor of the very first science-fiction magazine, *Amazing Stories*, around fifty years ago. Well, live and learn. Glad to hear you enjoyed the issue otherwise. Don—and continued good health.

—Roy Thomas.

NEXT ISSUE:



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